

Minutes from the Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Senate Meeting held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 from 12.30 pm to 1.33 pm in Hodges Hall 155.

In attendance:

Dean Stacia Haynie	
Wilfred Major	President – Interdisciplinary Studies
Michael Bibler	Acting as proxy for Chris Barrett – English
Phillip Maciah	English & Film Media Arts
Steve Andes	History
Kent Matthewson	Geology and Anthropology
Daniel C. Tirone	Political Science
Wes Schrum	Acting as proxy for Michael Barton - Sociology
Dorothy McCaughey	English
Carolyn Ware	English
Helen A. Regis	Geology and Anthropology
Carmela Mattza	Secretary – Foreign Languages and Literatures

## **Agenda**

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1. Dean Haynie addresses the Senate
2. HSS policies on internships
3. Recommendations for H & SS P & T committee
  - a) Other committees and appointments
4. Continue discussion on two topics from the last meeting
  - a) Grade inflation
  - b) The role of student evaluations in reviewing faculty performance.
5. Day and Time for future meetings
6. New business

## **The Meeting**

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1. Wilfred Major started the meeting at noon and welcomed and asked everyone to introduce him or herself before presenting Dean Haynie.
2. Dean Haynie started her presentation to the College Senate expressing her desire to personally address and listen to questions or concerns raised by the faculty and to also get the faculty input and feedback on plans and initiatives led by HSS. She offered the senate a quick view on two of the more relevant issues addressed by her team in the last year:
  - a) *The number of students enrolled in HSS is the largest in the University.*

Thanks to a very active and consistent effort, the number of students enrolled in HSS is up. Dean Haynie offered a descriptive picture of the efforts displayed to make it happen:

- Active promotion among parents of prospective students of the value of a degree in H&SS in terms of job market.
  - The work done by Assistant Dean of Students, the award-winning Becky Caire and team. She praised their job to reach, during the summer and the winter break, students who were would leave LSU and to directly address their issues.
- b) Dean Haynie wants HSS to be not just a service unit to the University but a School with a mission and productivity within it. She announced the increase in the amount offered by HSS Graduate Scholarships. She also communicated her view on the need to increase the work done to recruit and retain students as a path to become a more competitive institution. She also expressed her gratitude to the faculty who were invited by their Chairs to collaborate in the recruitment process of the class of 2019.
- c) She also mentioned that the College is currently looking forward to move the recognition of faculty awards and retirements from Honors Convocation to a ceremony following the HSS Faculty Meeting.
- d) She ended the first part of her presentation with an update on the 2015-2016 LSU Budget. The budget for 2015-2016 as proposed by the governor, would lower the funding to LSU from 30% to 12% or 10%. The Dean was asked about LSU gaining more tuition control, but she said that since the state funds TOPS, it will not give LSU too much leeway, and furthermore, LSU cannot raise its tuition too much more without pricing itself out of the market. The Dean was asked by Dorothy McCaughey about the possibility of targeting faculty, especially instructors, for termination in the College as a result of the cut. The Dean replied that there were no plans to do any such thing at LSU and any such plan would be foolish. She encouraged the faculty to weather this difficult time of uncertainty by not lowering their efforts to recruit new faculty and students. She also stressed the importance of the work done by former Dean Foster to lay the foundation for an endowment built by HSS alums that would serve the College to better navigate financial pressures created by external factors to the University. In the future LSU is going to be supported very little by public money, but Dean Haynie expressed support for maintaining the mission of a public education institution.
3. During the second part of her address, Dean Haynie shared her memories as a College Senate faculty member and communicated her expectations to find in the Senate the assistance and help needed to find a way to:
- a) *Establish and Monitor HSS Student Internship*

The Dean stressed the importance of internships as a path for students to get a job after graduation. She asked the faculty senate to work on a policy to organize internship opportunities for students in the College. This could include, for example, a zero credit-hour College-wide internship course, so that students, especially those in departments without an internship course, will be tracked and supported by HSS infrastructure. Students could officially enroll in it but it will be left to the discretion of academic units and departments whether or not they will consider it as part of the student's credits needed for graduation.

*b) Get a Better Retention of Students*

Dean Haynie explained why it is important for HSS to offer a more complete and successful mentorship to those students who are currently enrolled in the University Center for Advising and Counseling (UCAC). These are students who have earned 30-plus hours of college credit but have not yet met the admission requirements for HSS because of their GPA. When asked by the president about how the College Senate could help in the College efforts to assist these students in their transition to HSS, the Dean expressed her desire to have a proposal from the College faculty in which HSS (through the team effort of college advisers, supplemental instruction sessions and the Career Center) can have a more direct involvement in students' success by offering mentoring in their freshman year, not only after students are officially enrolled in the College. Currently policy requires students to have a 2.0 GPA, but removing this requirement would make it possible for the College's support services to contact and mentor students who are otherwise outside the college (while the College is still held responsible for the loss of these students, even though we have no access to rehabilitate them).

After her presentation, Dean Haynie excused herself for having to leave the meeting to attend another one.

4. The president then proceeded to create the committee to work on H&SS Student Internships. Helen A. Regis and Steve Andes agreed to participate in it. The president also announced writing an e-mail to all members of the College Senate asking for names to recommend for the H&SS P & T committee.

The president ended the meeting asking attendees about changing the meetings to Wednesday from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. The change was approved.

The meeting ended at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmela Mattza